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RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
GROUP 2834
PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: Q62848

Akira SENOO, et al.

Appln. No.: 09/780,480

Group Art Unit: 2834

Confirmation No.: 8117

Examiner: Pedro J. CUEVAS

Filed: January 12, 2001

For: ARMATURE FOR DYNAMO-ELECTRIC MACHINE AND METHOD FOR
MANUFACTURING THE SAME

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

ATTN: BOX AF
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated November 4, 2002, reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested. Upon entry of this Request, claims 1-16 are pending in the application with claims 1-9 being withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention. In response to the Office Action (Paper No. 8), Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims define patentable subject matter.

As a preliminary matter, Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that dependent claim 14 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. However, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to hold in abeyance the rewriting of this claim until the Examiner has had the

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opportunity to reconsider the rejected parent claims in light of the arguments presented below in support of the Applicant's traverse of the rejection.

In the Office Action, claims 10, 11 and 13 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Honshima et al. (USP 4,829,206; hereafter "Honshima"). Further, claims 12 and 15-16 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Honshima in view of Shiga et al. (USP 5,508,577). Applicant respectfully traverses the prior art rejections.

As in the Amendment filed August 23, 2002, Applicant respectfully submits that the claimed invention would not have been anticipated by or rendered obvious in view of Honshima because the applied reference does not teach or suggest (1) "first creases are formed on side portions of each insulator so as to extend in a lengthwise direction of the slot at a slot-opening end of the side portions", and/or (2) "the first creases being preformed prior to the insulator being mounted in said slots by first bent parts for angling the slot-opening ends of the side portions so as to be apart from each other", as recited in independent claim 10.

In response to the arguments for patentability in the Amendment filed August 23, 2002, the Examiner (pages 5 and 6 of the Office Action) asserts that although the claims recite that the first creases are preformed prior to the insulator being mounted in the slots, the limitation has not been given patentable weight because "the method of forming the device is not germane to the issue of patentability of the device itself." However, Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner's position is incorrect because the term "preformed" is not used in the "method" sense in the claims. Rather, the term defines the type of insulators to which the invention is directed, and thus defines the apparatus.

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Further, it appears that the Examiner did not respond to Applicant's argument that Honshima does not teach or suggest "first creases are formed on side portions of each insulator", as claimed. That is, as in the previous Office Action dated May 23, 2002, the Examiner maintains that Honshima discloses first creases formed on side portions of insulators where the insulators are bent or curved (denoted by Examiner with reference numeral "101" in the figure on page 3 in the Office Action) by the base portions of anchors when the anchors are formed in the end portion of the tooth.

As defined by Webster's Encyclopedic Unabridged Dictionary, a "crease" is "a line, mark, or ridge made by or as if by folding a pliable substance". However, Honshima discloses insulators 6 which have curved (rather than creased) portions corresponding to the surface contours of the anchors 7 of the teeth 8. That is, since the anchors 7 are fabricated by applying a pressing force to the end portion of the tooth 8 after the insulator 6 (having a U-shape with straight sides prior to anchor fabrication) and the winding 3 have been accommodated within the slot 1, the side portions of the insulator 6 are curved along the inner surface of the anchor 7 at the slot-opening side of the side portions when the anchor 7 is formed in the end portion of the tooth 8. Accordingly, a "crease" is not formed on each slot-opening side of the side portions of the insulator 6.

Further, even if creases are formed on the slot-opening sides of the side portions of the insulator when the anchors were formed in the end portion of the tooth (which Applicant submits is incorrect for the reasons set forth above), the alleged creases are not formed for angling the slot-opening ends of the side portions of the insulators so as to be apart from each other, as

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claimed. Rather, the alleged creases angle the slot-opening ends of the side portions of the insulators so as to be close to each other.

With regards to the patentability arguments for dependent claim 12, the Examiner maintains that "the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., the end portion of the upper and lower insulating films 540 and 541 do not enclose the opening of the slot) are not recited in the rejected claim(s)." However, claim 12 recites "the first crease and the second crease of a first side portion of each insulator are formed shifted toward the bottom of the slot with respect to the first crease and the second crease, respectively, of a second side portion of each insulator, whereby the top sides of the first and second side portions of each insulator, one overlapping the other, enclose an opening of each slot in a manner such that the top side of the second side portion is positioned over the top side of the first side portion." On the other hand, although Shiga (Figure 7) discloses that the end portion of the lower insulating film 541 overlaps on the end portion of the upper insulating film 540, the end portions of the upper and lower insulating films 540 and 541 do not enclose the opening of the slot. Accordingly, neither Honshima nor Shiga teach or suggest all of the features of dependent claim 12.

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 10-13, 15 and 16 should be allowable because the applied references, alone or combined, do not teach or suggest all of the features of the claims.


Reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be

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best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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WASHINGTON OFFICE



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